

million tourists visited Las Vegas in 2004 to enjoy our hospitality and entertainment.

Mr. Speaker, Las Vegas has much more to offer tourists than "the Strip" alone. Visitors from around the world appreciate such attractions as Red Rock Canyon, Lake Mead, and the Hoover Dam.

On May 15, 2005, and throughout all of 2005, Las Vegas is hosting a Centennial Celebration in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city. Las Vegas visitors and residents will join in the Centennial Celebration by participating in a variety of commemorative events including a centennial time capsule, an attempt to bake the world's largest birthday cake, a return of Hellsdorado Days (a Las Vegas tradition honoring the roots of the city in the Wild West), and a wedding ceremony with 100 couples.

Mr. Speaker, I moved to Nevada in 1978, and have seen Las Vegas change from a desert hideaway to a burgeoning metropolis where between five and seven thousand people move per month. However, what never ceases to amaze me is that despite the explosive growth that Las Vegas has experienced, it has never lost the small town appeal in which we Nevadans take so much pride. I am also constantly struck by the genuinely American nature of our community. We come from all over the world and all over the country to make up our community, and for that I am particularly proud to be here today.

When most people think of Las Vegas, visions of big hotels, casinos, and bad Elvis impersonators may come to mind. I conjure a different image—an image of the thousands of wonderful individuals who are Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the City of Las Vegas on its 100th Anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN AND CAROLE MARKSTEIN

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding couple in the 50th Congressional District for their commitment to public higher education in general, and for business education in particular.

Ken and Carole Markstein have pledged \$5 million to the College of Business Administration at Cal State San Marcos. Their gift will be used to complete the new business college building by providing upgrades, furnishings, and technology; to assist in faculty recruitment and retention efforts; to provide scholarships for students; and to fund future program development. Their gift will greatly enhance the University's ability to serve the students and the local business community by enabling the College to provide the highest quality education possible and develop future programs responsive to the needs of the region. The College of Business Administration houses the largest number of students at Cal State San Marcos.

In 1974, Ken Markstein graduated from Cal State University at San Jose with a B.S. degree in Finance. After completing his degree, he joined Markstein Beverage Company as the Accounting/Computer Manager. In 1975, Ken became Vice President of Markstein Beverage Company Union City, and in 1976, he

was promoted to Vice President/General Manager. In 1978 he moved to Markstein Beverage Company in Oakland as President and General Manager. In 1987, Ken and his brother purchased Mission Distributing in San Marcos, California, where he became President and CEO. Markstein Beverage Company is a wholesale beverage distributor, employing more than 120 employees, with 120 fleet vehicles and sales of approximately \$50 million per year.

The Marksteins have been engaged with Cal State San Marcos for a large part of its short history. In 1991, they established one of the first scholarships for business students. In 1996, Ken agreed to serve on the Business College advisory board, and in 2002, agreed to become part of the university's Trust Board.

With the beginning of construction of the new business building and with the arrival of a permanent dean of the college, Ken and Carole began to see the importance of a strong program for business students being developed in their own backyard. In particular, they saw the need to recruit and retain outstanding business faculty, and began to talk to the university about ways in which they could make a significant difference to the business community in the region. When Ken's father, who had started the family business, died in 2004, Ken decided to use part of the inheritance in this way—to honor his father by helping the future of business professionals in North San Diego County.

Ken is not only a product of the Cal State System, but a believer—calling it "the backbone of California's higher education." He believes in the goals of the university and in doing what he can to make those goals a reality.

Ken married his childhood sweetheart, Carole, in 1975, and they have two college-aged children. Like her husband, Carole is also part of the community and gives her time and talent to the establishment of the San Pasqual Academy—a residential campus for high school foster care adolescents.

On May 11, 2005, the California State University Board of Trustees unanimously voted approval of the recommendation,

Resolved, By the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the business building (Building 13) at Cal State University San Marcos, be named Markstein Hall.

It is an honor for the business college to carry the family name of this outstanding, civic-minded couple, as it is for the 50th district to honor them today with these remarks to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ADOPTION OF MR. FÉLIX NAVARRO RODRÍGUEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform our colleagues about a very important bipartisan initiative to highlight the problem of Cuban political prisoners held by the totalitarian regime of Fidel Castro. To bring worldwide attention to this critical matter, many of my colleagues and I are adopting an individual Cuban political prisoner jailed by Castro.

Sadly, on this small island nation there are thousands of pro-democracy activists currently imprisoned in Cuba for exercising their most basic human rights. They have been jailed for speaking freely, worshiping freely, and assembling peacefully.

The Cuban prisoner I am adopting is Mr. Félix Navarro Rodríguez. Mr. Rodríguez is a 49-year-old member of the Partido por la Democracia Pedro Luis Boitel, the Pedro Luis Boitel Party for Democracy. On the evening of Tuesday, March 18, 2003 Félix was detained on his way home in the city of Perico in Matanzas. He was taken by more than a dozen State Security agents (Castro's political police) to his home where they subjected Mr. Rodríguez and his family to an exhaustive search that lasted late into the night. The agents seized a large amount of equipment, objects, and supplies. Everything from a computer to 12 plastic chairs including books, rope, videos, typewriters, blank paper, pencils and pens, and all the documents pertaining to the Party were taken. Félix was brought to the State Security compound in Matanzas where he was detained under charges of having "received, among other things, leaflets and literature; the latter was proved by the confiscation of aggressive and corrosive writings and printed material from his house."

The Cuban prosecution requested a 30-year prison sentence. On Thursday, April 4, 2003, Mr. Rodríguez—together with independent journalist and PDLB's secretary for International Relations Iván Hernández Carrillo—were subjected to an arbitrary and illegal summary trial, in the city of Matanzas and condemned to a 25-year prison sentence.

Félix Navarro Rodríguez was a Cuban educator for over twenty years. He taught both elementary and middle school. At the same time he was teaching he was also studying Physics and Astronomy. Because he refused to indoctrinate his students with communist rhetoric he was fired from his job. According to the official document released by the Municipal Board of Education, he was accused of "treason against the revolution." As a result, he was detained and later sentenced to three years in prison for "enemy propaganda" of which he served 20 grueling months. As further punishment he was prohibited from completing his studies in Physics and Astronomy. Mr. Speaker, I too am a former teacher and believe that one of the most important jobs in my life, besides being a father, was teaching my students to think independently and express their views without fear of prosecution. I sympathize with Mr. Rodríguez's efforts to teach his students to think instead of teaching them the oppressive lessons of communism, and I commend him for his efforts.

Mr. Rodríguez's story is not uncommon in Cuba; in fact, political imprisonment has been a fact of life in Castro's Cuba for over four decades. Mr. Speaker, this has become a personal issue for me, as Fabio Freyre, the grandfather of a member of my staff, was imprisoned in solitary confinement for over one year for fighting against the revolution and the Castro Regime in the early 1960's. While this imprisonment took place over forty years ago, the conditions are the same as today. There are many Cubans fighting for their fundamental human rights who are being punished harshly on a daily basis. Like the others, it is clear that Félix Navarro Rodríguez does not belong in jail. He is a political prisoner being

held merely for trying to spread freedom and democracy to the Cuban people. I hope that he is one day freed from the shackles of oppression and that the Cuban people can have the opportunity to freely choose their leaders in a democratic system of political pluralism.

Mr. Speaker, what has made this Nation great is that since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we have been a beacon of freedom and justice. American troops have shed blood confronting tyrants and dictators.

Our belief that there truly are inalienable rights does not end at our borders. We Americans believe that freedom and liberty are rights due all the people of Earth.

I hope to one day soon speak to Félix Navarro Rodríguez and congratulate him on his freedom and thank him for his commitment to justice and democracy.

TRIBUTE TO MR. PAUL QUINN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a tribute to my close friend, Mr. Paul Quinn, delivered by former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tom Foley, on March 16, 2005 at the 13th National Gala of the American Ireland Fund.

They say that on St. Patrick's Day, the 33.7 million Americans who claim Irish ancestry swell to 80 million. As well they should!

And on St. Patrick's Day, we here in Washington celebrate the great day as only Washington can—politically. The Taoiseach pays a call on the President. The Speaker hosts them both at lunch. And the American Ireland Fund holds this dinner, as important a celebration as any of the others, and honors those who have made contributions in advancing peace and reconciliation in Ireland. Like the other events, it has its political side, but with a difference. Here we sometimes honor those whom not everybody knows, although we here know them well.

Tonight I have the honor to introduce a man whom few here can surpass in contributions to peace in Northern Ireland. And almost none of us could surpass him in avoiding praise. Because Paul Quinn keeps out of the limelight. He is one of the most effective advocates on the major policy issues of our times. He has been a tireless and effective friend of Ireland, but he leaves few tracks.

What has he done for Ireland? Twenty years ago, Paul was the first nongovernment figure to invite Northern Irish political leaders to Washington—not to make speeches, because who can stop the Irish from speaking?!

Paul hosted small, informal gatherings with officials, diplomats, legislators and interested Irish Americans to learn what was happening and to exchange views and hopes for an end to the violence we call the Troubles.

Paul was the first to bring John Hume and major Unionist leaders to Washington. He became a tireless lobbyist for peace through dialogue and non-violence. I know, because as Speaker I was frequently the target of Paul Quinn conversations on a brighter future for Northern Ireland.

If there is anyone in this city, from the White House on down, who can claim some small credit for the end of violence that now seems to prevail in the North, it is Paul.

Here at home, of course, he was also a long time Director of the American Ireland Fund, and the national chairman of this gala for many years. There is no Irish American initiative for justice and reconciliation in this city to which Paul has not given both time and strenuous effort. Like everything about which he cares deeply, Paul has made his passion for Ireland a family affair. Besides being a behind-the-scenes advisor to the Clinton Administration, there is brother Tom's service as a U.S. Observer to the International Fund for Ireland, a frequent topic of Paul's friendly lobbying.

Yet, there is always a dark side to every family. Paul and his brothers are Republican in the Irish sense, but there is also the fact, kept from elderly aunts and small children, that brother Gene is also Republican in the Washington sense. Tom believes this is what Paul's grandfather foresaw when he sometimes called the Quinn brothers—minus Paul—the “unholy alliance.”

Besides looking after and reveling in his family—especially his two granddaughters—Paul also doubles as a very effective but unregistered agent for the Irish Tourist Bureau. Many a Senator or Member has asked him his advice on where to go and what to see in Ireland.

That advice is rarely limited to political matters. Paul's single-minded determination to play every Irish golf course, his tireless promotion of University College Dublin—where he serves on the board of the Business School—and his limitless fund of stories recommend him as an all-purpose source of essential information.

Everything I have mentioned about Paul is known to many in this room tonight, but few have the whole picture. That is because life long modesty has masked Paul's dedicated commitment of time and treasure, quiet leadership and persuasive powers to the cause of peace in Ireland. Paul inherited great gifts from his Irish family—education, persistent application and a tradition of giving back—but he alone has applied them so effectively and quietly to the cause that we all share and celebrate tonight, as we honor Paul Quinn as a true champion for Ireland and for peace.

108TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROGERS BROTHER CORPORATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one-hundredth anniversary of Rogers Brothers Corporation. Having a history filled with many innovative achievements, it is my hope to see this company continue on a path of growth and prosperity.

Located in Albion, Pennsylvania, in Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District, Rogers Brothers Corporation was founded by Charles, Louis and Hugh Rogers. They started out fabricating steel for bridges. In 1914, they built their first trailer for commercial use. The production of trailers would go on to become their hallmark. The business of trailer production grew with the continued development of the roadway system and World War I. During World War II, Rogers developed special “tank retriever” trailers for the federal government, earning the Army-Navy “E” Award for excellence in production. They also built a special trailer which was used in the Manhattan Project. Following the war, commercial trailers

were further developed with the creation of the innovative Power Lift Detachable Gooseneck. Under the leadership of Betty Rogers Kulyk, and her husband John Kulyk, the company further developed their trailers, creating new and innovative designs for their customers.

Throughout their century in business, Rogers has overcome many challenging obstacles, including fires, the Great Depression, labor disputes, and a devastating tornado. However, the company has endured the test of time. In addition, it has remained a family-owned and operated business, a trait that makes them unique in the trailer industry. Today, Rogers trailers can be seen in all 50 states and in 65 countries around the world. The company enjoys an outstanding reputation among their customers, a 100,000 square foot facility, and a quality, all-American made product. Now solidly in its third generation, under the leadership of Lawrence and Mark Kulyk, the company looks to expand their customer and product base, and stay the course for the long haul.

America was founded on the principles of hard work and innovation. The very greatness of this Nation is tied to the entrepreneurial spirit of our people. The creativity and innovation of small business, such as Rogers, help to create the very pillars of our economy. Their many achievements and unwavering commitment to excellence in quality production is an outstanding tribute to the very ideals that we hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Kulyk Family and all of the hard working men and women at Rogers Brothers Corporation on their 100th anniversary.

IN DEFENSE OF 1,100 CLEVELAND, OHIO JOBS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Today, I sent this letter in defense of 1,100 Cleveland, Ohio jobs as a result of the BRAC process:

MAY 17, 2005.

Chairman ANTHONY PRINCIPI,
Base Realignment and Closure Commission,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PRINCIPI: Last week's announcement of the 2005 Department of Defense recommended BRAC closure list has inappropriately targeted the Cleveland area with over 1,100 jobs cuts. Cleveland currently suffers from a severe economic recession. Therefore I find the inclusion of these Cleveland facilities to be a substantial deviation from the selection criteria. These job losses are outrageous, unjust, and unfair.

Specifically, the BRAC list included the following cuts that directly affect the immediate Cleveland area: The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Cleveland is scheduled to lose 1,028 jobs with approximately 175 jobs being spared, to protect the recent Lockheed Martin A76 privatization of the Military and Retired Annuitant Pay Services contract function. The jobs are being moved to DFAS facilities in Columbus, OH, Denver, CO, and Indianapolis, IN. (BRAC Report: Volume 1, Part 2 H&SA 37-39); The Glenn Research Center is also scheduled to lose 50 civilian military research jobs. The